GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2112
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2016
Special Tiger Protection Force
Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the guidelines of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) for deployment of forest guards in place of local police and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the details of funds allocated to National Tiger Conservation Authority for enhancing the number of personnel in STPF and providing arms to them as well as for their deployment; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government to check illegal poaching of wild animals?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) There is no proposal to make amendments in the existing guidelines of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) since both options, either of Police personnel (option-I) or of forest personnel (option-II) are available. There is no provision for posting of local police in STPF.

(b) Funding support to tiger reserves under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Project Tiger" is provided for various activities, which inter alia, includes funding for raising, arming and deploying of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) also. There is no proposal for enhancing number of personnel from the existing number of 112 in STPF battalion in tiger reserves where raising, arming and deployment of the same has been sanctioned.

(c) The steps taken by the Government of India through the National Tiger Conservation Authority to check illegal poaching of wild animals including tiger is at Annexure-I.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2112 ON SPECIAL TIGER PROTECTION FORCE DUE FOR REPLY ON 29.11.2016

Steps taken by the Government of India through the National Tiger Conservation Authority to check illegal poaching of wild animals including tiger

â€¢ Providing assistance to States under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Project Tiger" for protection, infrastructure and antipoaching operations (including deployment of Tiger Protection Force and Special Tiger Protection Force)
â€¢ Providing grant through NTCA for patrolling in tiger rich sensitive forest areas outside tiger reserves
â€¢ Alerting the States as and when required
â€¢ Transmitting backward / forward linkages of information relating to poachers
â€¢ Advising the States for combing forest floor to check snares / traps
â€¢ Performing supervisory field visits through the National Tiger Conservation Authority and its regional offices
â€¢ Using information technology for improved surveillance (e-Eye system) using thermal cameras
â€¢ Launching tiger reserve level monitoring using camera trap to keep a photo ID database of individual tigers
â€¢ Preparing a national database of individual tiger photo captures to establish linkage with body parts seized or dead tigers
â€¢ Assisting States to refine protection oriented monitoring through monitoring system for tiger's intensive protection and ecological status (M-STrIPES)
â€¢ Assisting States to deploy local workforce in a big way for protection to complement the efforts of field staff [In all, approximately 25 lakh mandays are generated annually with 50% central assistance amounting to around Rs. 25 crores (excluding matching 50% share given by States) under Project Tiger. Many local tribes constitute such local workforce (besides non-tribals), eg. Baigas, Gonds in Madhya Pradesh, Gonds in Maharashtra, Chenchus in Andhra Pradesh, Sholigas in Karnataka, Gujjars in Uttarakhand and Irulas in Tamil Nadu to name a few.
â€¢ Initiative taken for collaboration of National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau towards an online tiger / wildlife crime tracking / reporting system in tiger reserves and to coordinate with INTERPOL for checking trans-border trade of wildlife products.
â€¢ Raising, arming and deploying of Special Rhino Protection Force in the lines of Special Tiger Protection Force for Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
â€¢ Insurance / Corpus Fund for staff of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.

â€¢ Motivating tiger reserve administration / tiger States to ensure conviction of criminals through pursuance of cases in different courts.
â€¢ Bilateral co-operation with neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan.
â€¢ Sharing of information on seizure of body parts including skin of tigers among tiger range countries to ascertain source area. India made a proposal in this regard in CITES CoP-17 in Johannesburg which was agreed by member countries.

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